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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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August 20, 1993

Mr. Dave Hull  
Water Quality Compliance officer  
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality  
224 South Arthur  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

RE: June 28, 1993 Acid leak/spill

Dear Dave,

The following information outlines the sulfuric acid spill experienced at our facility on June 28, 1993. As we talked about earlier, this is to update your files as to the actual spill and subsequent remediation efforts.

The acid leak was discovered at about 11:30 pm on the 28th near sulfuric acid storage tank # 27. It was suspected that the floor of the tank was leaking and the sulfuric acid was surfacing through the ground immediately adjacent to the tank.

The tank was drained by pumping the acid contents into another storage tank and sulfuric acid train cars. Residual acid and sludge remaining in the tank were neutralized with a sodium carbonate solution, and the neutralized material was drained to the phosphoric acid plant's process wastewater/gypsum sump.

When empty, the tank floor was removed to inspect the soil beneath the tank. Inspection of the soil beneath the tank revealed that the tank had not in fact been leaking. Further investigation unearthed a corroded down-leg of a pipe used to measure tank level to be the real culprit for the leak. This down-leg pipe was located outside the tank with the bottom section below grade. At this point is where the corrosion occurred, causing the acid to leak from the tank. The down-leg pipe measuring system was eliminated, and the tank floor was replaced.

While all this mechanical investigation and repair was taking place, soil sample pH was determined around the spill site to a depth of 36 inches. Results showed that the acid absorption into surrounding soil was minimal. Minor excavation and treatment with natural limestone was performed.

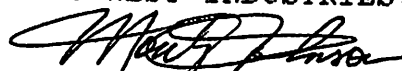
The spill itself (about 200 tons acid) was directed into a secondary containment ditch while being neutralized with soda ash and limestone.

D. Hull, IDEQ, August 20, 1993, page 2.

In short, the operators and supervisors involved in this incident worked diligently to correct the problem. Their efforts minimized possible contamination to the surrounding environment. The tank was refurbished to a condition better than before the leak and necessary remediation was performed in a timely manner.

If you need additional information please feel free to call me at (208) 547-4381.

Sincerely,  
NU-WEST INDUSTRIES, INC.



Monty Johnson  
Environmental Manager